



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Speaker Curley addresses state leaders at the New Mexico Tribal Leaders Summit



MESCALERO, N.M. — On Thursday, 25th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalyne Curley attended the two-day New Mexico State Tribal Leaders Summit, hosted by the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, which is an annual government-to-government meeting focused on pressing issues affecting the state's 23 tribal nations. This year's summit was held in Mescalero, N.M., on the homelands of the Mescalero Apache Tribe.

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, Indian Affairs Secretary-designate James Mountain and Deputy Secretary Lashawna Tso, and several of the state's cabinet members were in attendance to engage with and hear directly from tribal leaders. Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren was also in attendance for the opening day of the summit on Wednesday, to advocate for priorities and meet with state leaders.

Speaker Curley's remarks centered on 10 priorities that were developed by Council members who represent communities in the state of New Mexico including capital outlay and infrastructure, public safety, health care, community development and housing, natural resources, Covid-19 mitigation and prevention, social services and human services, education, economic development, and the protection of existing statutes and future legislative bills.

"The summit is an important opportunity to strengthen the government-to-government relations between tribal nations, state legislators, and the Governor of New Mexico. I appreciate the efforts of the New Mexico Council Delegates to work with their communities and local leaders to develop the state priorities, on behalf of the Navajo Nation. I appreciate Governor Lujan Grisham and her cabinet's commitment to working with the Navajo Nation to partner on many issues and to build stronger communities. We had a very productive dialogue with the Governor and the Department of Indian Affairs," said Speaker Curley.

During the second day of the summit, Speaker Curley and Navajo Nation Vice President Richelle Montoya also participated in panel discussions that focused on partnerships between tribes and states to promote economic opportunities that benefit tribal communities and the state. New Mexico State Reps. Anthony Allison (D-Dist. 4) and Charlotte Little (D-Dist. 68), and State Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr. (D-Dist. 22) were also in attendance to offer their input and support for tribes.

On July 13, the Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'iyatí Committee is scheduled to consider and adopt the Navajo Nation's priorities for the state of New Mexico outlined in Legislation No. 0137-23, which is sponsored by Council Delegate Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh).

The legislation is available online at <http://dibb.nnols.org/publicreporting.aspx> and public comments may be submitted by email to comments@navajo-nsn.gov or by mail to the Office of Legislative Services, P.O. Box 3390, Window Rock, AZ, 86515.

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